

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. A multi-function machine, comprising:
  - means for merging a first set of electronic image data with a second set of electronic image data to form
  - 5 merged image data; and
  - means for conveying said merged image data to one of a plurality of user selectable destinations within said multi-function machine.
- 10 2. The multi-function machine of claim 1 wherein said first set of electronic image data and said second set of electronic image data may include facsimile image data, scanned image data, or image data based upon host computer data.
- 15 3. The multi-function machine of claim 1 wherein said first set of electronic image data and said second set of electronic image data may include registered image data.
- 20 4. The multi-function machine of claim 3 wherein said registered image data is selected from a registered image selection menu.
- 25 5. The multi-function machine of claim 3 wherein said registered image selection menu includes a confidential imprint option, a date stamp option, a date and time stamp option, and an identification number option.
- 30 6. The multi-function machine of claim 5 wherein said identification number option includes an identification number incrementation option.

7. The multi-function machine of claim 1 wherein said user selectable destinations include a printer, a facsimile output, storage means, and a host computer.

5 8. A multi-function machine, comprising:

means for receiving a merge command;

means, responsive to said receiving means, for reading one of a plurality of user selectable logical operations;

10 means, responsive to said receiving means, for accepting one of a plurality of user selectable merge destinations within said multi-function machine;

means, responsive to said receiving means, for identifying a source of a first set of digital data;

15 means, responsive to said receiving means, for selecting a source of a second set of digital data;

means, responsive to said receiving means, for executing a merge operation according to said user selectable logical operation, wherein said first set of digital data is merged with said second set of digital data to form merged image data; and

20 means for transmitting said merged image data to one of said merge destinations.

25 9. The multi-function machine of claim 8 wherein said source of said first set of digital data and said second set of digital data may include a facsimile, a scanner, storage means or a host computer.

30 10. The multi-function machine of claim 8 wherein said source of said first set of digital data and said second set of digital data includes registered image data.

11. The multi-function machine of claim 10 wherein said registered image data is selected from a registered image selection menu.

5 12. The multi-function machine of claim 11 wherein said registered image selection menu includes a confidential imprint option, a date stamp option, a date and time stamp option, and an identification number option.

10 13. The multi-function machine of claim 12 wherein said identification number option includes an identification number incrementation option.

14. The multi-function machine of claim 8 wherein said  
15 user selectable destinations include a printer, a facsimile output, storage means, or a host computer.

15. A method of operating a multi-function machine, comprising the steps of:

20       receiving a merge command;  
          reading data representing one of a plurality of user selectable merge destinations within said multi-function machine;  
          identifying a first set of digital image data;  
25       selecting a second set of digital image data;  
          executing a merge operation wherein said first set of digital image data is merged with said second set of digital image data to form merged image data; and  
          transmitting said merged image data to one of said  
30 merge destinations.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said selecting step includes the step of selecting registered image data from a registered image selection menu.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said registered  
image selection menu of said selecting step includes a  
confidential imprint option, a date stamp option, a date  
and time stamp option, and an identification number  
5 option.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said registered  
image selection menu of said selecting step includes an  
identification number incrementation option.  
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